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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/696,050	10/29/2003	William Alan Powers	30735-00004USPT	5827
7590	12/30/2004		EXAMINER	
Ross T. Robinson, Esq. Jenkins & Gilchrist A Professional Corporation 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 3200 Dallas, TX 75202-2799			NICHOLSON, ERIC K	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3679	
DATE MAILED: 12/30/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 10/696,050 Examiner Eric K Nicholson	Applicant(s) POWERS ET AL. Art Unit 3679	
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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4-26-04</u> . | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |
|---|--|

DETAILED ACTION

Objection to the Specification

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: The subject matter of claims 6 and 13 does not appear to be described to the degree claimed in the specification.

Claim Rejections –35 USC § 112

Claims 7 and 10-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In claim 7 and claim 10 the term “dovetail arrangement” appears indefinite as it is unclear where or what the “arrangement” is. In claim 7 it is not stated whether the “arrangement” is on the pin or box member and in claim 10 it is unclear how this “arrangement” forms part of the invention since claim 10 is merely claiming the box member

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

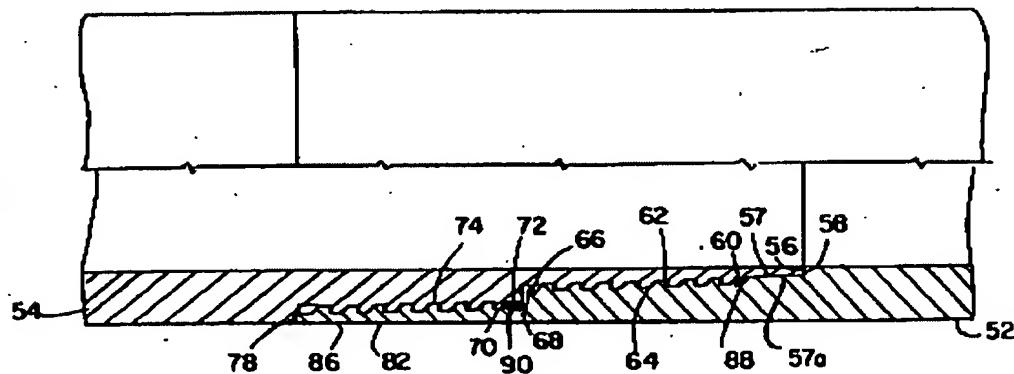
The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

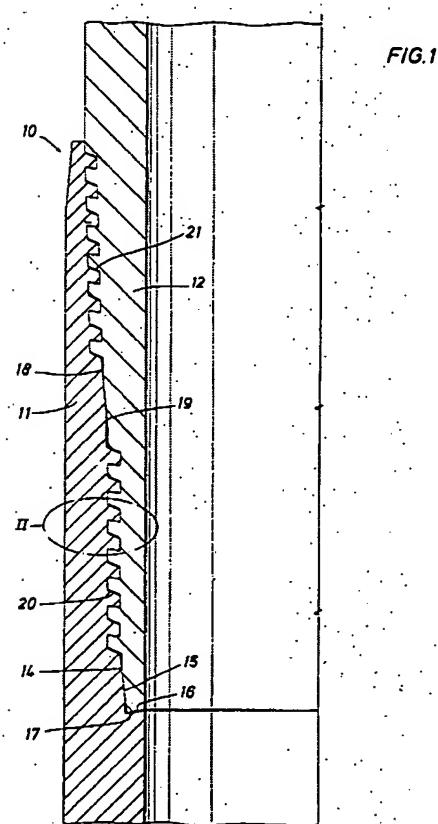
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4,6-11,13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 4,696,498 to Church. The pipe connection of Church teaches and illustrates the features of the claimed present invention including a pin 54 formed with an elongated thread section 28 and sealing surface 24, elongated thread section including reverse locking pin threads (fig. 2A) along the entire length of the thread section; a box 52 formed for direct engagement box threads along an interior surface with threads and wherein the sealing surface 24 forms a metal-to-metal seal with the box 40 and the box and the pin threads engage along the entire length of the thread section for inherently preventing the exacerbation corrosion of the box threads. As to the dovetail arrangement in claim 7 and claim 10 see "j" in fig. 2B.

FIG. 3



Claims 1-4,6-11,13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 4,537,429 to Landriault. The pipe connection of Church teaches and illustrates the features of the claimed present invention including a pin 12 formed with an elongated thread section as shown in fig. 1 and sealing surface 15, elongated thread section including reverse locking pin threads (fig. 2) along the entire length of the thread section; a box 11 formed for direct engagement box threads along an interior surface with threads and wherein the sealing surface 15 forms a metal-to-metal seal with the box 11 and the box and the pin threads engage along the entire length of the thread section for inherently preventing the exacerbation corrosion of the box threads. As to the dovetail arrangement in claim 7 and claim 10 see 16, 17 in fig. 1.



Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 4,537,429 to Church in view of U.S. patent 5,415,442 to Klementich. The Church device as noted above discloses the claimed device however as to claims 5 and 12 the stab or front flank is not disclosed to be at 45degrees. Klementich discloses that it is known in the art to provide a similar type coupling with the stab or front flank is to be at 45degrees, see column 20, lines 25-30. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to fabricate the front flank of the Church device to be at 45 degrees such as taught by Klementich, in order to provide a more secure coupling for the inserted threaded pin member and allow for proper interengagement of the pin and box members upon initial stabbing.

Claims 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 4,537,429 to Church in view of U.S. patent 4,707,001 to Johnson. The Church device as noted

above discloses the claimed device however as to claim 15 the thread is only noted to be a single helical thread and not a multi-helical thread. Johnson discloses that it is known in the art to provide a similar type coupling with multi-path helical threads, see column 2, lines 15-60, in order to increase the strength of the joint and increase the possible load able to be carried by the joint. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to fabricate the thread of the Church device to be a multiple helical thread such as taught by Johnson in order to increase the strength of the joint and increase the possible load able to be carried by the joint.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

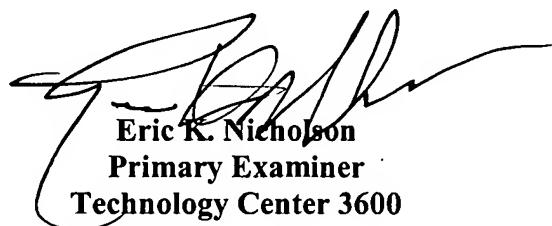
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Nicholson whose telephone number is (703) 308-0829. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesdays thru Fridays from 7:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola, can be reached on (703) 308-2686. The fax phone number for Technology Center 3600 is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).

ekn
12/21/04



Eric K. Nicholson
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 3600